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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,857	05/06/2002	Shinichi Yoshimura	113278-007	6313
29175	7590	01/21/2004		
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			EXAMINER TRAN, TAM D	
			ART UNIT 2676	PAPER NUMBER 6
DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/009,857

Applicant(s)

YOSHIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Tam D. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sasuga et al. (USPN 5079624), hereinafter simply Sasuga.

2. In regard to claims 16, 22, 28, Sasuga teaches a picture processing apparatus, comprising: a light receiving portion for generating an electric signal corresponding to an intensity of a received light; see col.42 lines 1-15; an amplifying portion for amplifying the electric signal generated by the light receiving portion; see col.44 lines 54-60; a plurality of storing portions, wherein each of the storing portions stores, as a current signal, the electric signal amplified by the amplifying portion; see col.33 lines 8-15; a load portion for converting (A/D converter) the current signal stored by each of the storing portions into a voltage signal; see col.44 lines 57-60; a bias portion for supplying an offset current to an input of the load portion; see col.27 lines 24-34; a calculating portion for calculating an output signal of the load portion based on the voltage signal converted by the load portion; and an outputting portion for outputting a calculated result of the calculating portion. See col.42 lines 5-12.

3. In regard to claims 17, 23, 29, Sasuga teaches a picture processing apparatus, wherein the plurality of storing portions store current signals corresponding to the intensity of light received

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in different time periods, and wherein the calculating portion performs a calculating process using voltage signals from at least two different time periods based on current signals extracted from at least two of the plurality of storing portions. See col.42 lines 5-12.

4. In regard to claims 18, 24, 30, Sasuga teaches a picture processing apparatus, wherein the calculating process comprises at least one of addition, subtraction (difference), and comparison. See col.42 lines 5-12.

5. In regard to claims 19, 25, Sasuga teaches a picture processing apparatus, wherein the amplifying portion comprises a first mirror transistor and a second mirror transistor connected such that a gate electrode of the first mirror transistor faces a gate electrode of the second transistor, thereby amplifying the current signal based on current mirror amplification. See col.40 lines 33-37.

6. In regard to claims 20, 26, 33, Sasuga teaches a picture processing apparatus, wherein each of the storing portions includes a current copier circuit for storing the current signal. See col.33 lines 8-15.

7. In regard to claims 21, 27, 31, 32, Sasuga teaches a picture processing apparatus, wherein the bias portion supplies an offset current to one of two current signals being compared by the calculating portion, the two current signals being supplied by two of the plurality of storage portions. See col.27 lines 24-34.

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tam D. Tran** whose telephone number is **703-305-4196**. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI from 8:30 – 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Matthew Bella** can be reached on **703-308-6829**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Tam Tran

TT
Examiner

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Matthew C. Bella

**MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**